



*"If you seek the promise of a bright future,  
look into the eyes of a child"*  
~Governor Dirk Kempthorne

# Early Care and Learning Cross Systems Task Force



# Family Support & Self-Sufficiency


## Shared Goal 1: Parents and caregivers meet the basic needs of children.

### Outcomes:


1. Families eligible for housing and food support programs are able to appropriately use these programs.

#### *Example of Statewide Strategies/Activities to Achieve Outcome:*

- Develop a rewards program for the working poor
- Support methods, including legislation (if necessary) to eliminate staffing shortages so eligibility determinations for these programs can be made in a timely manner

2. Resources are available in communities across the state to help parents provide a nurturing family environment 

#### *Example of Statewide Strategies/Activities to Achieve Outcome:*

- Increase the number and availability of Parents As Teachers programs
- Increase affordable after-school programs 
- Promote community mapping statewide and make the results easily available

## Shared Goal 2: The state, communities and businesses establish strategies and procedures that support families of young children.

### Outcomes:

3. Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) regulations promote self-sufficiency while protecting the family unit.

#### *Example of Statewide Strategies/Activities to Achieve Outcome:*

- Develop a panel consisting of state agencies, clients receiving TANF funds and other stakeholders to conduct an annual review of the regulations and provide recommendations for improvement
- Increase the cash assistance grant to families, when necessary
- Increase the life time limit on TANF, when necessary

4. Child support requirements are enforced.

#### *Example of Statewide Strategies/Activities to Achieve Outcome:*

- Invest in technology to improve tracking for children support cases
- Hire enough staff to support enforcement
- Develop public awareness campaigns targeted at educating employers

5. Working parents have access to affordable health insurance for their children.

#### *Example of Statewide Strategies/Activities to Achieve Outcome:*

- Encourage partnerships between the state insurance commission, private health care insurance providers, government entities, and businesses to develop affordable insurance policies for low income families
- Provide training for child care providers on the options for health care insurance so they can

educate parents and caregivers

6. Employers develop family-friendly medical and family leave policies.

*Example of Statewide Strategies/Activities to Achieve Outcome:*

- Develop training and public information campaigns on the benefit of family-friendly medical leave policies targeted to employers and chambers of commerce



## Parenting Education

**Shared Goal 3: Families and caregivers of young children have access to information, resources and support to help them raise healthy, strong children.**

### Outcomes:

7. 211 Idaho Careline has the capacity to provide families with up-to-date information about available resources and how to access services

*Example of Statewide Strategies/Activities to Achieve Outcome:*

- Publicize 211 Idaho Careline and continue to develop their capacity to serve all areas of the state

8. The 211 Idaho Careline site is heavily and consistently promoted to families and providers of services to families of young children.

*Example of Statewide Strategies/Activities to Achieve Outcome:*

- Develop public information materials and have service providers, early childhood professionals and others distribute them in their communities
- Secure funding sources to enhance staffing and technology for 211 Idaho Careline

9. Families of young children have access to ongoing parenting education and peer support.

*Example of Statewide Strategies/Activities to Achieve Outcome:*

- Assist communities with the development of an information system designed to help parents cultivate positive relationships with others who are knowledgeable about child development, family issues and other dynamics. (e.g. a central calendaring system that is used by faith-based organizations, non-profits, birthing hospitals, and others who offer parenting classes and support groups)



## Early Care and Education

**Shared Goal 4. Young children have access to high-quality child care, when needed.**

### Outcomes:

10. Licensed child care providers are available throughout the state.

*Example of Statewide Strategies/Activities to Achieve Outcome:*

- Improve and enforce child care licensing regulations
- Develop a tiered reimbursement system for all types of child care providers

11. Families have access to information about quality childcare.

*Example of Statewide Strategies/Activities to Achieve Outcome:*

- Expand childcare resource and referral capacity in regional offices

12. Child care subsidies are available to families who qualify.

*Example of Statewide Strategies/Activities to Achieve Outcome:*

- Educate legislators about the cost-benefits of providing state match for available federal funds

13. Child care health consultants are available to each licensed childcare provider.

*Example of Statewide Strategies/Activities to Achieve Outcome:*

- Funds are available to support child care health consultants

14. Child care providers have access to training opportunities on the development of young children and resources to help meet family needs.

*Example of Statewide Strategies/Activities to Achieve Outcome:*

- Expand the child care provider component of Parents As Teachers
- Increase the number of trainers participating in IdahoSTARS

15. Child care providers have access to community resource and referral services.

*Example of Statewide Strategies/Activities to Achieve Outcome:*

- Local Child Care Resource & Referral agencies expand their services

16. Child care opportunities are available for children with special healthcare needs.

*Example of Statewide Strategies/Activities to Achieve Outcome:*

- Identify ways for childcare providers to be trained and reimbursed to expand opportunities for special needs and special healthcare needs children

17. The business community promotes the availability of quality childcare.

*Example of Statewide Strategies/Activities to Achieve Outcome:*

- Provide economic development incentives for businesses with childcare programs or those that support and/or subsidize childcare
- Develop public awareness campaigns targeted at businesses with information about the benefits to their bottom line when they support quality childcare

## **Shared Goal 5: All young children have access to early learning opportunities to support school readiness.**

### **Outcomes:**

18. An adequate supply of early learning programs are available throughout the state.

*Example of Statewide Strategies/Activities to Achieve Outcome:*

- Remove restrictions on school districts so they can offer early learning programs.

19. Out-of-home child care, early intervention, pre-school and school programs are linked and coordinated.

*Example of Statewide Strategies/Activities to Achieve Outcome:*

- State agencies that support and fund local programs meet regularly to remove barriers and increase coordination (e.g. State Department of Education, Idaho Department of Health & Welfare, Head Start, ICCP, Infant-Toddler Program, etc.)

20. Parents, legislators, early childhood educators, faith-based organizations, as well as service providers are partners in preparing young children for school.

*Example of Statewide Strategies/Activities to Achieve Outcome:*

- Convene annual meetings with parents, key legislators, service providers, faith-based representatives, early childhood educators and other stakeholders to develop specific action plans for their communities.
- Develop and promote a list of approved software programs and/or central locations (e.g. libraries) that can help parents assess their child's development and school readiness.

21. The state supports policy and rule changes, funding methods, and when needed legislation, to ensure early education for young children.

*Example of Statewide Strategies/Activities to Achieve Outcome:*

- Educate legislators about the importance and cost-benefit of supporting early childhood programs.
- Develop policy recommendations that includes funding analysis



## Social & Emotional Health

**Shared Goal 6: Families of young children have access to social and emotional screening, and when needed, assessment and age-appropriate follow-up care.**

**Outcomes:**

22. Providers of child health related-services have access to training and use of tools that screen for healthy social and emotional development in young children.

*Example of Statewide Strategies/Activities to Achieve Outcome:*

- Identify training for screening of social and emotional health that is age appropriate
- Identify a list of appropriate tools for screening and assessment on a statewide level

23. Providers of child health related services are trained in and use methods and tools to screen for social and emotional health in young children.

*Example of Statewide Strategies/Activities to Achieve Outcome:*

- Develop and maintain a database to capture information on people who receive training
- IdahoSTARS will integrate the use of screening and assessment tools in their program

24. Providers of child health related services are available to conduct age-appropriate assessments.

*Example of Statewide Strategies/Activities to Achieve Outcomes:*

- Remove barriers that keep private insurance companies from reimbursing for EPSDT (early periodic screening, diagnosis & treatment)

- Develop clear referral protocols for proper follow-up

25. High-risk children are screened, assessed and offered services, when needed.

*Example of Statewide Strategies/Activities to Achieve Outcome:*

- Propose legislation for increased reimbursement for Medicaid EPSDT
- Develop an integrated mental health system with services that meet the needs of the family. (e.g. the needs of the family drive the services, not the funding)
- Maintain a list of trained practitioners in the 211 Idaho Careline

26. Health insurance is available across the state to support the social, emotional & mental health care needs of families, including assessment and follow-up.

*Example of Statewide Strategies/Activities to Achieve Outcome:*

- Identify additional child care development funds to support a child care health consultant network that will provide support for social, emotional, and mental health needs for families of young children
- Create a state level entity that is embedded in the structure of government that is authorized to develop funding streams that are responsive to families rather than just Medicaid rules

27. Services to meet the social and emotional health of young children are available throughout the state.

*Example of Statewide Strategies/Activities to Achieve Outcome:*

- Develop the capacity of universities to serve rural and frontier populations via telemedicine or other technological methods
- Develop public information campaigns (similar to outreach by university nursing programs) to increase the number of students choosing this field
- Develop a web-based program to promote the community mapping tool, specifically to collect information on social and emotional community-based resources.

28. Culturally appropriate services are available throughout the state to meet the social, emotional and mental health of diverse families of young children.

*Example of Statewide Strategies/Activities to Achieve Outcome:*

- Increase or reimburse for EPSDT in tribal health and community clinics
- Regional plans should include culturally appropriate methods
- Recruit ethnic and minority students to health-related and social service programs at Idaho universities
- Locate services in cultural centers, hire multicultural staff, and fund initiatives that incorporate culture to services



## Health Care

**Shared Goal 7: Families of young children have a regular health care provider that oversees their healthcare needs and refers them to other services and resources, as needed.**

**Outcomes:**

29. All children have public or private health insurance

*Example of Statewide Strategies/Activities to Achieve Outcome:*

- Develop a “one-stop shop” process to be used by all state agencies and others supporting (including a single application/in-take form)
- Support single payer health insurance in Idaho
- Support small business medical insurance “co-ops”
- Convene federal and state partners that fund or support health insurance coverage to identify funds (state & federal) and best practices that can be shared to maximize resources at the local level

30. Families are informed health care consumers

*Example of Statewide Strategies/Activities to Achieve Outcome:*

- Develop a training component for early childhood professionals on health care options
- Support Healthwise and other health care consumer educators to promote information on quality healthcare

31. Health services capacity is adequate to community needs in all areas (rural, urban, frontier)

*Example of Statewide Strategies/Activities to Achieve Outcome:*

- Encourage utilization of nurse practitioners and other adjunct medical professionals
- Medical home or primary care providers are linked to other community resources
- Better utilization of technology

32. Medical home or primary care providers are linked to other community resources

*Example of Statewide Strategies/Activities to Achieve Outcome:*

- Develop a public awareness campaign targeted to health care professionals on quality child care resources
- Encourage and expand use of the 211 Idaho Careline, specifically to provide the ability to conduct web searches on community resources

**Shared Goal 8: All young children receive appropriate health-related services for optimal health and development.**

**Outcomes:**

33. Families apply for and access appropriate health related services.

*Example of Statewide Strategies/Activities to Achieve Outcome:*

- One-stop shopping, one application for various programs
- Streamline enrollment
- Provide training for early care & learning professionals about linking families to health care services

34. Families use health care services appropriately for their young children.

*Example of Statewide Strategies/Activities to Achieve Outcome:*

- Expand the Healthy Connections program to reach all communities across the state
- Provide training for early care & learning professionals about linking families to health care services





# Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems

## **Shared Goal 9: Assure linkages and coordination among providers & programs that serve families of young children.**

### **Outcomes:**

35. Promote and support interagency coalitions at the State, regional, and community levels.

#### *Example of Statewide Strategies/Activities to Achieve Outcome:*

- Develop Memorandums of Understanding (MOU's) between agencies to better coordinate the services they provide
- Early childhood education is included as a line item in agencies budgets
- Agencies co-host/sponsor trainings at the state and local level to reduce duplication

36. Use creative funding structures and methodologies to support coordination and collaboration.

#### *Example of Statewide Strategies/Activities to Achieve Outcome:*

- Barriers are eliminated so agencies can share their funding and other resources

## **Shared Goal 10: Establish and use outcomes and indicators to assess and monitor changes in the health and well-being of families of young children.**

### **Outcomes:**

37. Identify outcomes and outcome measures.

#### *Example of Statewide Strategies/Activities to Achieve Outcome:*

- Convene agencies that collect and analyze data to identify the types of outcome measures they currently collect.
- Convene stakeholders to identify a core set of indicators for families and child well-being

38. Develop strategies to use and report status of outcomes.

#### *Example of Statewide Strategies/Activities to Achieve Outcome:*

- Work with state agencies that collect data, as well as Kids Count, Community Count organizations to coordinate reports